



# TOWN of EASTHAM

Department of Public Works

Department of Natural Resources

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PUBLIC WORKS

FIRST RESPONDER

## MINUTES

### BOARD OF HIGHWAY SURVEYORS

MEETING: FEBRUARY 02, 2021 @ 5:00PM

### **REMOTE PARTICIPATION ONLY**

#### REMOTE PARTICIPANTS:

Michael Harnett, Chair; Keith Roberts, Vice-Chair; George Burgess, Clerk, Silvio Genao, Superintendent of Public Works

Meeting called to order at 5:00pm by Chair Michael Harnett.

**ROLL CALL OF PARTICIPATING MEMBERS:** Michael Harnett; here, George Burgess; here, Keith Roberts; here, Dan Coppelman; here.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 02, 2021**

Keith Roberts requested a clarification of his motion regarding the referral from the Select Board on the underground electric utility issue on Thoreau Drive. He would like his motion to indicate the Board of Highway Surveyors recommendation, without their endorsement, for the Town to pursue the groundwork with the Select Boards recommendations, as a possible way to assist these residents. A discussion between the Board regarding the amendment to the minutes took place with a consensus to make the amendment.

### DISCUSSION OF PREVIOUS ITEMS

No updates from the Select Board or Highway Superintendent, Silvio Genao, regarding the three issues referred to the Board of Highway Surveyors by the Select Board at the last meeting.

#### Dyer Prince

Discussion took place relating to Dyer Prince in the Complete Streets Program. The Board feels traffic studies, pedestrian counts and other data needs to be made available and reviewed before a recommendation can be made. The fact that Dyer Prince Road is #16 on the Complete Street Plan and there is a remediation cost of \$325,000.00 reflected on the plan, there must be plans, drawings and data related to come to this dollar amount. The Board of Highway Surveyors feel they need more specific data to make decisions and opinions and they would like to see documentation as to why Dyer Prince which is #16 on the Complete Street List has been brought ahead of the other 15 roads. The members expressed concern that there could be ramifications from taxpayers if the priority of the road upgrades is changed and there is no technical data to support the change in priority.

#### Thoreau Drive

No update from the last meeting. Discussion that the Board supported the concept of the Select Board finding a way to assist these residents with the electrical infrastructure issues, but until more specifics were provided



felt they could not offer an opinion. They would like to review it at a later date when more specific plans and information are available.

#### Toland Drive

Applicant sent more information, but the Board feels more complete information is needed, there is no plan offering specific information on the road and not enough to review to make a determination.

*Motion made by Keith Roberts to table this issue until more information is provided on the condition of their road, with an updated map that indicates where the drains are located.*

*2<sup>nd</sup> by George Burgess*

**ROLL CALL VOTE: George Burgess, yes; Keith Roberts, yes; Michael Harnett, yes.**

#### EASTHAM COMPLETE STREETS

Superintendent Genao discussed the process involved in the creation of the Eastham Complete Streets plan. The board discussed the lack of technical data available to them to make any determinations or decisions regarding any of the roads included in the plan. The opportunity to have Town Planner Paul Lagg, come and meet with the Board to provide more data and information regarding how the prioritization of the roads being determined was discussed and the Board would like to pursue this taking place during a future meeting.

The current lack of data pertaining to road usage, and the means to obtain it was discussed. The use of the Police Department sign board, which collects traffic information was considered as well as the ability to access data previously obtained on roads where the sign board has already been used. Requesting accident reports for Town roads was mentioned and Superintendent Genao said he would discuss these with the Chief of Police.

Keith Roberts initiated a discussion about the specifics of the Boards charge and member liability for recommendations they make. Superintendent Genao said he reached out to the Town Administrator regarding board member's liability and she reached out to the Town's counsel for clarification, but that the Board is covered under the Town's Public Official's Liability Policy. Superintendent Genao reviewed the three types of Town boards as being statutory, regulatory and advisory which the Board of Highway Surveyors is. The Board of Highway Surveyors advise and make recommendations to the Highway Superintendent and Select Board.

#### INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT PLAN

A document and sketches were provided by Superintendent Genao resulting from a study done previously by a civil engineer, working as a consultant for the Town, for numerous intersections in the Town needing traffic safety improvements. Superintendent Genao has placed in the Town's capital plan for next year a plan to initiate traffic studies, traffic counts and accident data for problematic intersections in Town which will result in design for the remediation of the safety issues. He will be bringing this issue to the Board as it advances through the process.

A discussion also took place regarding the eventual development of an encroachment policy to provide uniform guidance for sight distance issues on roads and at intersections in the interest of public safety.

#### TRAFFIC CALMING POLICY

Discussion regarding a recurring resident complaint regarding speeding occurring on a particular road in Town and the request for speed bumps. The Police Department placed the sign board in this area and the resulting data reflected only one vehicle in a several week period going in excess of the speed limit. In other areas

where they have been installed, residents have then complained about the noise resulting from vehicles travelling over them and the speed bumps caused issues for emergency vehicles responding to calls. Discussion took place regarding a potential speed calming policy becoming necessary in the future, though the roads in Eastham do not meet the criteria from the MUTCD for limits requiring hard traffic calming solutions and that soft approaches to speeding in Town like signage, flashing lights and enforcement.

**REGULATORY SIGNAGE**

Discussion regarding inconsistent and inappropriate signage in the National Seashore and on the Town’s roads, that do not adhere to the MUTCD signage regulations. Superintendent Genao said he would reach out to the Seashore to address these signage issues.

**COOPERATION/COORDINATION FROM OTHER DEPARTMENTS**

This topic had been discussed previously during the meeting and cooperation with the Police Department regarding the usage of the sign board and the ability to obtain accident reports as well as being able to meet with Town Planner Paul Lagg.

**OTHER BUSINESS/MATTERS NOT ANTICIPATED BY THE BOARD**

Review of Town of Eastham Street Sign Policy to address lack of MUTCD compliant street signs town wide and working to eventually replace all town road signs to be consistent, including those on private roads, with the intention of leaving the private road signs in place. This would alleviate some of the issues the emergency response vehicles have faced, particularly late at night in the dark and in areas where GPS coverage is spotty or non-existent and has made it difficult for first responders to locate addresses.

**SHARED STREETS MAP & LIST**

Superintendent Genao used the Recreation Department map of locations of interest in Town to create an informal list to create a network of points of interest and tie them together taking into account the studies that have been done identifying low lying areas which have the potential to be under water in the future. Discussion took place regarding the possible funding mechanisms for this type of work.

**DISCUSSION OF ROAD OPENING PERMITS:**

20-G179	725 SCHOOLHOUSE ROAD	21-G188	35 & 40 WILMA ROAD
20-G183	80 ALSTON AVE	21-G189	210 WEIR ROAD
20-G184	815 GOVERNOR PRENCE ROAD	21-G192	125 LUTHER’S LANE

**SCHEDULING NEXT MEETING**

TUESDAY, MARCH 02, 2021 @ 5:00PM

***Motion made by Keith Roberts to Adjourn the meeting at 6:33pm***

***2<sup>ND</sup> By George Burgess***

**ROLL CALL VOTE: George Burgess; yes, Keith Roberts; yes, Michael Harnett; yes.**

*Respectfully submitted,  
Vicki Reis  
Administrative Assistant  
Department of Public Works*